4. Improvement in Time tabling to provide a clear path.

5. Improvement in standard of maintenance to reduce equipment failures.

6. Counselling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running. Liaison with State Government to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities.

Increasing lease occupancy level of luggage

1716. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to increase the lease occupancy level of luggage parcel van to the private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to maximize the utilization of the space in the luggage compartments of the front Brakevans (SLRs) of passenger carrying trains and to provide value-added services to the rail customers, parcel space in the front Brakevans (SLRs) of passenger carrying trains is leased out to private participants by inviting bids through open tenders. Similarly, leasing of space is also permitted for parcel vans on round-trip basis.

(c) Does not arise.

Demands for introduction of train services in Behrampur

1717. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last visit of the Railway Minister to Behrampur, Orissa, the people of the area have made certain demands of introduction of train services and taking up of passenger amenities works;

(b) if so, the details of the demands so made by the public;

(c) whether Government have considered these demands; and

(d) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No, Sir, The demands are being examined and action as found feasible and justified will be taken.

Statement

List of demands of the people of **Behrampur**

1. Link between South Orissa and Western Orissa.
2. Introduction of Express train between Visakhapatnam and Howrah.
3. Introduction of Express train between Palasa and New Delhi.
4. Provision of slip coaches from Behrampur to New Delhi.
5. Stop extension of 8411/8412 Bhubaneswar-Srikakulam Intercity Express upto Visakhapatnam.
6. Extension of 8563/8564 Visakhapatnam-Bangalore Prashanti Express upto Bhubaneswar.
7. Daily running of 8403/8404 Puri-Ahmedabad Express.
8. Increase in General Coaches in 8401/8402 Puri-Okha Express.
9. Reception of Up & Down trains at platform no. 1 at Behrampur.
10. Introduction of direct trains from Behrampur to New Delhi.
11. Provision of Extra platform at Behrampur.
12. Change in timings of 1019/1020 Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Express.
13. Extension of 217/218 Palasa-Khurda Road Passenger upto Puri.
14. Introduction of Express train between Palasa and Behrampur.
15. Introduction of Shatabdi train between Behrampur and Bhubaneswar.
16. Extention of 8407/8408 Bhubaneswar-Nizamuddin Hirakud Express upto Behrampur.

17. Introduction of Intercity Express train between Behrampur and Bhubaneswar.

Bogibil road and railway bridge over Brahmaputra river

1718. SHRI SILVIOUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of years that would be required to complete the construction of Bogibil road cum Railway bridge over Brahmaputra river in Assam;

(b) whether steps have been taken to strengthen the road from Jonai to Lakhimpur (Part of NH-52) in anticipation to the increase of traffic intensity on this road and completion of the construction of bridge mentioned above; and

(c) why the four lane corridor road construction is not making any progress in Assam area in comparison to other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The construction of Bogibil Road cum Railway bridge over Brahmaputra river in Assam is likely to be completed in the year 2008-09 subject to availability of resources.

(b) Widening and strengthening of National Highway-52 from Lakhimpur to Jonai is planned to commence from the current financial year itself.

(c) The works of four laning under East-West Corridor of National Highway Development Programme in Assam are expected to be awarded by March, 2005. These works are scheduled for completion by 2007, the overall target date of completion of National Highway Development Programme.

Provision of 20,000 jobs

1719. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to provide approximately 20,000 jobs in various categories; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to provide a sizeable proportion of such jobs, say 5000, to Jammu and Kashmir State towards resolution of unemployment problem there?